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INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE: ACTIVITIES OF MEMBER STATES

Note by the Secretariat

Addendum

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INTRODUCTION

1. Documents A/AC.105/567 and Add.1, 2 and 3 contain information received from Member States as of 15 December 1993 on the following topics, pursuant to a recommendation made by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its thirty-sixth session:[1]

(a) Those space activities that were or could be the subject of greater international cooperation, with particular emphasis on the needs of the developing countries;

(b) Spin-off benefits of space activities.

2. The present document contains information on those topics that was received from Member States from 23 to 28 February 1994.

[1] Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/48/20), para. 122.

REPLIES RECEIVED FROM MEMBER STATES*

FINLAND

[Original: English]

During the past few years, satellites and space systems have been utilized increasingly in various sectors of the Finnish economy. This progress, resulting from active national development, has also led to growing interest in international cooperation in space programmes.

Finnish space activities are concentrated in three programme areas: space science, earth observation and telecommunications. The work within these areas has been directed according to goals specified in a national space programme. The main objectives are:

- to play an active role in gathering fundamental scientific level of Finnish space research,
- to develop earth observation applications in nationally important areas, such as forestry, meteorology, mapping, and sea, ice and snow monitoring, as well as
- to strengthen industrial participation in space projects.

Finland takes part in international activities in all areas of priority as mentioned above. The use of the space systems operated by international satellite organizations (such as INTELSAT, INMARSAT, EUTELSAT and EUMETSAT) is a necessity for operational telecommunications and meteorological applications. In order to carry out research and development work, Finland is participating in the programmes of the European Space Agency (ESA) and is cooperating in several bilateral space programmes within the framework of other space organizations.

European Space Agency is important for the Finnish space research activities. Finland has been an Associate Member of the Agency from the beginning of 1987. Finnish participation in ESA programmes has grown steadily, and Finland participates in the Agency's scientific, earth observation and telecommunications programmes. Importance of the cooperation within ESA's programmes has increased and today over 50% of Finnish research and development activities are connected to the ESA's space programmes and projects. The Finnish Association Agreement will terminate in the end of 1994. Finland is, therefore, negotiating with ESA to obtain the status of a Member State from the beginning of 1995.

Participation in space missions is important for Finnish space activities because of the need to make space research and industrial activities more international.

Besides participating in ESA's Scientific Programme, Finnish scientists take also part in many other international space science missions. In particular, Finland actively participates in Russian space missions (INTERBALL, Radioastron, Spectrum-X and Mars-94), in Swedish scientific satellites projects (Freija and Odin) and in some space missions of the NASA (Cassini, Polar).

In the field of earth observation, Finland participates in ESA's satellite projects (ERS and ENVISAT-1). The main objective is to develop new applications for national users of satellite data.

Finland participates in space programmes in order to obtain economic and social benefits. It has been an active user of space technology, which has created short term benefits for the country.

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*The replies are reproduced in the form in which they were received.

Finland does not have own satellites and, it, therefore, exploits satellites operated by the international user organizations, ESA and national space agencies. The country is using meteorological satellites for observing the atmosphere and clouds, telecommunications satellites for international telephony and for television transmissions as well as earth observation satellites for environmental monitoring and for remote sensing of natural resources.

Research and development of space technology is an important element of the Finnish space activities. Finnish industry and research institutes are active in this field. This has created long term benefits by increasing the exploitation of advanced and new technologies and by offering commercial opportunities for new industries.

The Finnish government funded space research and development activities at the level of 133 million FIM (equivalent to 24 million USD) in the year 1993. Contributions to the programmes of the European Space Agency were about 57 million FIM and financing of the national programmes about 76 million FIM.